

CPS Investigator Post Academy Description of Courses

Domestic Violence: This course identifies indicators that domestic violence is present in the home and the cycle many couples experience when in a domestic violence relationship. This course additionally identifies and describes the impact domestic violence has on children.

Drug Exposed Children: This course explores the medical and developmental affects of neonatal exposure to various drugs and the impact of parental substance abuse on early childhood development. Additionally, the impact of alcohol and tobacco on children will be discussed.

Identifying Physical Abuse and Neglect Advanced: This course increases knowledge of how to identify abuse and neglect through observations and communications with child victims and alleged perpetrators. Additionally, this course will provide the medical perspective on child abuse and neglect and how to review and utilize medical reports in an investigation.

Introduction to Disabilities: This course provides strategies for communicating with persons with disabilities. Additionally, common disabilities CPS Investigators may come across in the field are examined, including why there is increased victimization and common myths regarding children and adults with disabilities. This course also explores disabilities from both a historical and cultural perspective.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: This course identifies mental health diagnoses commonly seen by child protective services investigators. Behavioral indicators of various diagnoses are explored as well as common medications utilized and their side effects. The combination of mental health issues with alcohol and drug abuse is also discussed. Additionally, resources across the state are highlighted which may assist with an investigation.

Nutritional and Medical Neglect: This course explores basic nutrition education and the physical and intellectual milestones children reach as they age. The effects of nutritional neglect has on early childhood development is also discussed. Additionally, available supports for the family and how to access such services are identified.

Safety and Risk: This course examines the differences between looking at immediate safety issues and long term risk needs for children and families. A discussion around issue driven versus incident driven investigations is held, including strategies for detecting risk, integrating learned information into safety and risk decisions, and projecting potential issues with the family or services provide.

Talking to Kids: This course provides information on how to build and strengthen skills for interacting with and gathering information from children who have been reported as being abused or neglected.